

REMARKS

The Examiner's attention to the present application is noted with appreciation.

RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT. This is in response to the Office Action of March 10, 2004 requiring restriction to one of the following inventions: Group I, Claims 1, 6-8, drawn to a construct comprising a metal ion-binding domain and specific for melanocortin receptors; Group II, Claims 2, 6-8, drawn to a manufactured peptide and salts thereof including a metal ion binding domain and specific for melanocortin receptors; Group III, Claims 3, 9-16, drawn to a combinatorial library of peptides targeted to melanocortin receptors; Group IV, Claims 4, 9-15 and 17, drawn to a combinatorial library of peptidomimetics targeted to melanocortin receptors; and Group V, Claims 5, 9-15 and 17, drawn to a combinatorial library of peptide or peptidomimetic members in solution targeted to melanocortin receptors.

Applicant elects the invention of the claims of Group II, Claims 2, 6-8, drawn to a manufactured peptide and salts thereof including a metal ion binding domain and specific for melanocortin receptors, to be examined. Claims 1, 3-5, and 9-17 are withdrawn. Applicant reserves the right to file a divisional application on the remaining claims.

Applicant has canceled claim 6, and added new claims 18 - 63. Claim 18 generally corresponds to claim 6. The species consisting of R_1 - Bbb - Aaa - Ccc - R_2 is elected. Claims readable on this peptide formula are claims 18, 20, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 37, 38, 39 and 40.

CLAIMS AMENDMENT. New claims 18 to 63 are in a format corresponding to accepted U.S. practice. Support for these claims is found, *inter alia*, in claim 6 as filed, and at pages 5 to 10 of the specification.

CLAIM FEES. A check for additional claim fees is attached. Authorization is given to charge payment of any additional fees required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Acct. 13-4213. A duplicate of this paper is enclosed for accounting purposes.

EXTENSION. A petition for a one month extension, and the required fee, is submitted herewith.

Should the Examiner have any queries, suggestions or comments relating to a speedy disposition of the application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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